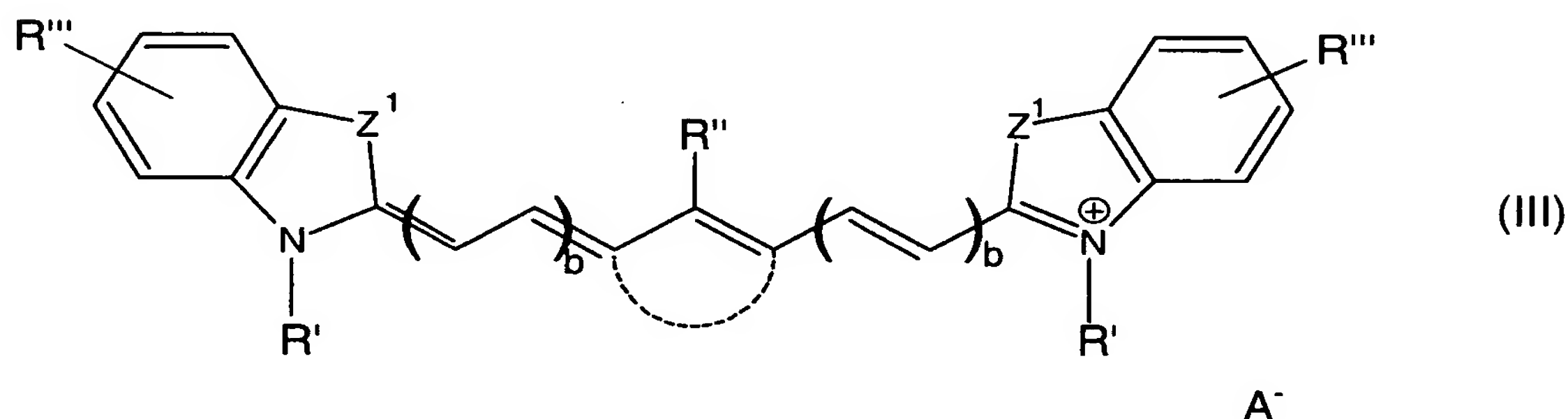


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A ~~[[P]]~~ process for the production of a heat-sensitive imageable element comprising:
 - ~~(a) providing a substrate,~~
 - (b) applying a first coating solution to a substrate,
the first coating solution comprising at least one photothermal conversion material, at least one polymer A soluble or swellable in an aqueous alkaline developer and at least one solvent,
 - (c) drying the applied first coating solution,
 - ~~(d)~~ applying a second coating solution to the applied first coating solution,
the second coating solution comprising at least one cross-linkable polyfunctional enolether, at least one polymer B comprising hydroxy groups and/or carboxy groups, and at least one solvent, wherein the polymer A used in the first coating solution does not dissolve in ~~this~~ the second coating solvent,
wherein the second coating solution does not contain a photothermal conversion material, and
 - (e) heating to a temperature of at least 60°C.
2. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ process according to claim 1 ~~[[,]]~~ wherein the polymer A of the first coating solution is selected from copolymers derived from N-substituted maleimides and comonomers copolymerizable therewith, copolymers comprising a urea group in the side chain, and copolymers with a sulfonamide group in the side chain, and mixtures thereof.

3. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polymer B of the second coating solution is selected from novolaks, polyvinyl phenolic resins, acidic polyvinyl acetals and (meth)acrylic acid ester/(meth)acrylic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.
4. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the photothermal conversion material has the formula



wherein

- each Z^1 independently represents S, O, NR^a or $C(alkyl)_2$;
- each R' independently represents an alkyl group, an alkylsulfonate group or an alkylammonium group;
- R'' represents a halogen atom, SR^a , OR^a , SO_2R^a or NR^a_2 ;
- each R''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, $-COOR^a$, $-OR^a$, $-SR^a$, $-NR^a_2$ or a halogen atom; R''' can also be a benzofused ring;
- A^- represents an anion;
- represents an optionally present carbocyclic five- or six-membered ring;
- R^a represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or aryl group;
- each b can independently be 0, 1, 2 or 3.

5. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the polyfunctional enoether is bis[4-(vinylloxy)butyl]isophthalate.

6. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 5~~, wherein the first coating solution furthermore comprises at least one additive selected from contrast dyes and pigments, surfactants, print-out dyes, flow control agents, and antioxidants.
7. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 6~~, wherein the second coating solution furthermore comprises at least one additive selected from contrast dyes and pigments, surfactants, print-out dyes, flow control agents, and antioxidants.
8. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein the solvent for the first coating solution comprises methyl lactate.
9. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 8~~, wherein the solvent for the second coating solution comprises propylene glycol monomethylether acetate.
10. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 9~~, wherein the application of the coating solutions in steps ~~(b)~~ (a) and ~~(d)~~ (c) is carried out by means of a slot coater.
11. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 10~~, wherein the drying of step ~~(e)~~ (d) is carried out at a temperature in the range of 60 to 150°C.
12. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 11~~, wherein prior to the application of the first coating solution, the substrate is subjected to at least one treatment selected from graining, anodizing, and hydrophilizing.
13. (currently amended) The [[P]] process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 12~~, wherein the substrate is an aluminum plate or foil.

14. (currently amended) A ~~[[H]]~~heat-sensitive imageable element obtained~~able~~ by the process ~~according to any~~ of claim~~[[s]]~~ 1 ~~to 13~~.
15. (currently amended) A ~~[[P]]~~precursor of a heat-sensitive imageable element comprising:
- (a) a substrate,
 - (b) a first layer on the substrate comprising at least one photothermal conversion material and at least one polymer A soluble or swellable in an aqueous alkaline developer, and
 - (c) a second layer comprising at least one cross-linkable polyfunctional enoether and at least one polymer B comprising hydroxy groups and/or carboxy groups, wherein the second layer does not contain a photothermal conversion material.
16. (currently amended) A ~~[[H]]~~heat-sensitive imageable element obtained~~able~~ by heating the precursor ~~defined in~~ of claim 15 to a temperature of at least 60°C.